

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7448
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CG AO ZA
SUBJ: ZAIRE-ANGOLA RELATIONS: ZAMBIAN ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY

REF: KINSHASA 0575, 0540, AND 0546

1. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, AT KAUNDA-MOBUTU MEETING DECEMBER 20 AT MBALA, KAUNDA OFFERED TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN NETO AND MOBUTU IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. MOBUTU REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND KAUNDA ARRANGED CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, THE LATEST OF WHICH ARE THE MEETINGS NOW TAKING PLACE IN BRAZZAVILLE

2. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION WE ARE GETTING ON KAUNDA'S INTERMEDIARY ROLE. HOWEVER, CONCILATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE IN LUANDA AND KINSHASA DID COME CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF MOBUTU-KAUNDA MEETING AND WERE FOLLOWED BY MEETINGS BETWEEN ZAIRIANS AND ANGOLANS (REFTELS). ZAMBIA HAS CONCRETE INTERESTS IN SEEING A NORMALIZATION OF ZAIRIAN-TANZANIAN RELATIONS. AS IT NOW
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STANDS, THE TAZARA RAILROAD IS ZAMBIA'S ONLY PRACTICABLE OUTLET TO THE SEA, AND ZAMBIAN-TANZANIAN RELATIONS HAVE SHOWN SIGNS OF DETERIORATING OF LATE. KAUNDA AND NYERERE HAVE HAD DIFFERENCES OVER ELECTIONS IN A RHODESIA SETTLEMENT, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE TANZANIANS OF A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ZAMBIAN DEMURRAGE CHARGES IN DAR GENERATED A SPATE OF ANTI-TANZANIAN SENTIMENT. THESE DEVELOPMENTS

HAVE FOCUSED ZAMBIAN ATTENTION ON THE NORMALIZATION OF
ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR REOPENING
THE BENGUELA RAILROAD AS AN OPTION TO OVER-DEPENDENCE ON
THE TAZARA. ANOTHER ZAMBIAN INTEREST IS THE LESSENING OF
TENSIONS ALONG THE SHABA-ANGOLA BORDER; THESE HAVE A PROVEN
POTENTIAL FOR SPILLING OVER INTO ZAMBIA.
LOW

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